

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A system for selecting one of at least two different candidate wireless communication networks for data communication by a mobile communication device, comprising:

a network selector that:

employs said mobile communication device to perform data transfers between said mobile communication device and communication server associated with said at least two different candidate wireless communication networks, and

performs an evaluation of said at least two different candidate wireless communication networks based on at least one data communication quality parameter.

2. The system as recited in Claim 1 wherein said network selection subsystem causes said wireless communication device to employ one of said at least two different candidate wireless communication networks based upon an outcome of said evaluation.

3. The system as recited in Claim 1 wherein said at least two different candidate wireless communication networks comprise:
a Global System for Mobile Communication (GSM) network, and
a Universal Mobile Telecommunication System (UMTS) network.

4. The system as recited in Claim 1 wherein said at least
two different candidate wireless communication networks are packet
switched data transmission networks conforming to a standard
selected from the group consisting of:

General Packet Radio Service (GPRS),
High Speed Circuit Switched Data (HSCSD), and
Enhanced Data Rates for GSM Evolution (EDGE).

5. The system as recited in Claim 1 wherein said mobile
communication device is selected from the group consisting of:

a mobile telephone,
a personal digital assistant (PDA), and
a mobile digital assistant (MDA).

6. The system as recited in Claim 1 wherein said at least
one data communication quality parameter includes transfer time.

7. The system as recited in Claim 1 wherein said at least
one data communication quality parameter includes communication
drops.

8. The system as recited in Claim 1 wherein said network
selector employs a display of said mobile communication device to
notify a user of an outcome of said evaluation.

9. The system as recited in Claim 1 wherein said network
2 selector takes charge rates associated with said at least two
3 different candidate wireless communication networks into account in
4 performing said evaluation.

10. The system as recited in Claim 1 wherein said network
2 selector automatically performs said data transfers and evaluation.

11. A method of selecting one of at least two different
2 candidate wireless communication networks for data communication by
3 a mobile communication device, comprising:

4 performing data transfers between said mobile communication
5 device and communication server associated with said at least two
6 different candidate wireless communication networks; and

7 evaluating said at least two different candidate wireless
8 communication networks based on at least one data communication
9 quality parameter.

12. The method as recited in Claim 11 further comprising
2 causing said wireless communication device to employ one of said at
3 least two different candidate wireless communication networks based
4 upon an outcome of said evaluation.

13. The method as recited in Claim 11 wherein said at least
2 two different candidate wireless communication networks comprise:
3 a Global System for Mobile Communication (GSM) network, and
4 a Universal Mobile Telecommunication System (UMTS) network.

14. The method as recited in Claim 11 wherein said at least
2 two different candidate wireless communication networks are packet
3 switched data transmission networks conforming to a standard
4 selected from the group consisting of:

5 General Packet Radio Service (GPRS),
6 High Speed Circuit Switched Data (HSCSD), and
7 Enhanced Data Rates for GSM Evolution (EDGE).

15. The method as recited in Claim 11 wherein said mobile
2 communication device is selected from the group consisting of:

3 a mobile telephone,
4 a personal digital assistant (PDA), and
5 a mobile digital assistant (MDA).

16. The method as recited in Claim 11 wherein said at least
2 one data communication quality parameter includes transfer time.

17. The method as recited in Claim 11 wherein said at least
2 one data communication quality parameter includes communication
3 drops.

18. The method as recited in Claim 11 further comprising
2 employing a display of said mobile communication device to notify
3 a user of an outcome of said evaluation.

19. The method as recited in Claim 11 further taking charge
2 rates associated with said at least two different candidate
3 wireless communication networks into account in performing said

4 evaluation.

20. The method as recited in Claim 11 further comprising
2 automatically performing said data transfers and evaluation.

21. A mobile communication device, comprising:

a keypad;

a display; and

a network selector, associated with said keypad and said display, that employs said mobile communication device to perform data transfers between said mobile communication device and communication server associated with said at least two different candidate wireless communication networks and performs an evaluation of said at least two different candidate wireless communication networks based on at least one data communication quality parameter.

22. The mobile communication device as recited in Claim 21 wherein said mobile communication device is selected from the group consisting of:

a mobile telephone,

a personal digital assistant (PDA), and

a mobile digital assistant (MDA).

23. The mobile communication device as recited in Claim 21 wherein said network selector employs said display to notify a user of an outcome of said evaluation.